# WAR AND SHADOWS

The Haunting of Vietnam



MAI LAN GUSTAFSSON

# **War And Shadows The Haunting Of Vietnam**

Van Nguyen-Marshall

#### **War And Shadows The Haunting Of Vietnam:**

War and Shadows Mai Lan Gustafsson, 2010-12-15 Vietnamese culture and religious traditions place the utmost importance on dying well in old age body unblemished with surviving children and properly buried and mourned More than five million people were killed in the Vietnam War many of them young many of them dying far from home Another 300 000 are still missing Having died badly they are thought to have become angry ghosts doomed to spend eternity in a kind of spirit hell Decades after the war ended many survivors believe that the spirits of those dead and missing have returned to haunt their loved ones In War and Shadows the anthropologist Mai Lan Gustafsson tells the story of the anger of these spirits and the torments of their kin Gustafsson's rich ethnographic research allows her to bring readers into the world of spirit possession focusing on the source of the pain the physical and mental anguish the spirits bring and various attempts to ameliorate their anger through ritual offerings and the intervention of mediums Through a series of personal life histories she chronicles the variety of ailments brought about by the spirits wrath from headaches and aching limbs often the same limb lost by a loved one in battle to self mutilation In Gustafsson's view the Communist suppression of spirit based religion after the fall of Saigon has intensified anxieties about the well being of the spirit world While shrines and mourning are still allowed spirit mediums were outlawed and driven underground along with many of the other practices that might have provided some comfort Despite these restrictions she finds victims of these hauntings do as much as possible to try to lay their ghosts to rest Between War and the State Van Nguyen-Marshall, 2023-07-15 In Between War and the State Van Nguyen Marshall examines an array of voluntary activities including mutual help professional charitable community development student women s and rights organizations active in South Vietnam from 1954 to 1975 By bringing focus to the public lives of South Vietnamese people Between War and the State challenges persistent stereotypes of South Vietnam as a place without society or agency Such robust associational life underscores how an active civil society survived despite difficulties imposed by the war government restrictions economic hardship and external political forces. These competing political forces which included the United States Western aid agencies and Vietnamese communist agents created a highly competitive arena wherein the South Vietnamese state did not have a monopoly on persuasive or coercive power To maintain its influence the state sometimes needed to accommodate groups and limit its use of violence Civil society participants in South Vietnam leveraged their social connections made alliances appealed to the domestic and international public and used street protests to voice their concerns secure their interests and carry out their activities Mythologizing the Vietnam War Jennifer Good, Brigitte Lardinois, Paul Lowe, 2014-10-16 The Vietnam War is evolving from contemporary memory into history Fifty years on it still serves as a benchmark in the history of war reporting and in the representation of conflict in popular culture and historical memory However as contemporary culture tries to come to terms with the events and their political psychological and cultural implications the real Vietnam War has been appropriated and changed into a set of

mythologies which implicate American and Vietnamese national identities specifically and ideas of modern conflict more broadly particularly in shaping the mediation of the twenty first century War on Terror This collection of interdisciplinary critical essays explores the cultural legacies of the US involvement in South East Asia considering this process of mythologising through the lenses of visual media and tracing the war s evolution from contemporary reportage to subsequent interpretation and consumption It reassesses the role of visual media in covering and remembering the war its memorialisation mediation and memory The origin of this collection of essays was an international conference titled Considering Vietnam held at the Imperial War Museum London in February 2012 co organised by the museum and the University of the Arts London Photography and the Archive Research Centre PARC **Human Rights and the Arts** Lily Cho, Susan J. Henders, 2014-10-23 Human Rights and the Arts Perspectives on Global Asia approaches human rights issues from the perspective of artists and writers in global Asia By focusing on the interventions of writers artists filmmakers and dramatists the book moves toward a new understanding of human rights that shifts the discussion of contexts and subjects away from the binaries of cultural relativism and political sovereignty From Ai Wei Wei and Michael Ondaatje to Umar Kayam Saryang Kim Lia Zixin and Noor Zaheer among others this volume takes its lead from global Asian artists powerfully re orienting thinking about human rights subjects and contexts to include the physical spiritual social ecological cultural and the transnational Looking at a range of work from Tibet Indonesia Sri Lanka India China Bangladesh Japan Korea Vietnam and Macau as well as Asian diasporic communities this book puts forward an understanding of global Asia that underscores Asia as a global site It also highlights the continuing importance of nation states and specific geographical entities while stressing the ways that the human rights subject breaks out of these boundaries Many of these works are included in the companion volume Human Rights and the Arts in Global Asia An Anthology also published by Lexington Books Regimes of Happiness Yuri Contreras-Vejar, Joanna Tice Jen, Bryan S Turner, 2019-03-15 Regimes of Happiness is a comparative and historical analysis of how human societies have articulated and enacted distinctive notions of human fulfillment determining divergent moral ethical and religious traditions and incommensurate and conflicting understanding of the meaning of the good life A two part book it provides a historical view of the way in which Western societies the descendants of the Latin Roman Empire created languages and institutions that established specific and occasionally antithetical conceptions of a fulfilled human life or happiness in the first part In the second part it explores how non Western societies and non Christian religions have conceived and established their own ideals of human perfection Regimes of Happiness is a critical reflection on modern notions of happiness which are typically focused on individual feelings of pleasure Four Decades On Scott Laderman, Edwin A. Martini, 2013-06-06 In Four Decades On historians anthropologists and literary critics examine the legacies of the Second Indochina War or what most Americans call the Vietnam War nearly forty years after the United States finally left Vietnam They address matters such as the daunting tasks facing the Vietnamese at the war s end including

rebuilding a nation and consolidating a socialist revolution while fending off China and the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnam syndrome the cynical frustrated and pessimistic sense that colored America's views of the rest of the world after its humiliating defeat in Vietnam The contributors provide unexpected perspectives on Agent Orange the POW MIA controversies the commercial trade relationship between the United States and Vietnam and representations of the war and its aftermath produced by artists particularly writers They show how the war has continued to affect not only international relations but also the everyday lives of millions of people around the world Most of the contributors take up matters in the United States Vietnam or both nations while several utilize transnational analytic frameworks recognizing that the war s legacies shape and are shaped by dynamics that transcend the two countries Contributors Alex Bloom Diane Niblack Fox H Bruce Franklin Walter Hixson Heonik Kwon Scott Laderman Mariam B Lam Ngo Vinh Long Edwin A Martini Viet Thanh Nguyen Christina Schwenkel Charles Waugh Down and Out in Paradise Luke Williams, 2019-09-02 Luke Williams flies to Kuala Lumpur coming down off crystal meth without plans or much cash He is in Asia for three years He spends time working as a prostitute in Pattaya eats snake heart in Vietnam consults an American medium in Ubud and explores the eye popping red light scenes in Jakarta and the Philippines Along the way he encounters other Westerners who go to Asia for the things they can t find at home riches wives ladyboys cheap living and even cheaper drugs cults spices mountains tropical beaches beach gigolos self esteem necklaces and ascended masters Luke fully immerses himself in every environment and encounter going far beyond reportage while aspects of his own history his dreams disappointments urges and his inherited struggle with mental illness begin to catch up with him He becomes addicted to Valium is haunted by the past and ends up in jail Ultimately Luke is confronted by what is and what was and his own footprint upon it all **Routledge Handbook of** Trauma in East Asia Tina Burrett, Jeff Kingston, 2023-04-03 This handbook explores trauma in East Asia from the nineteenth to the twenty first century assessing how victims perpetrators and societies have responded to such experiences and to what extent the legacies still resonate today Mapping the trauma scape of East Asia from an interdisciplinary perspective including anthropologists historians film and literary critics scholars of law media and education political scientists and sociologists this book significantly enhances understandings of the region s traumatic pasts and how those memories have since been suppressed exhumed represented and disputed In Asia's contested memory scape there is much at stake for perpetrators their victims and heirs to their respective traumas The scholarly research in this volume examines the silencing and distortion of traumatic pasts and sustained efforts to interrogate denial and impunity in the search for accountability Addressing collective traumas from across East Asia China Hong Kong Japan Russia Singapore South Korea Taiwan and Vietnam this book is a valuable resource for students and scholars of Trauma and Memory Studies Asian Studies and Contemporary Asian History more broadly The 'Hidden Curriculum' of Vietnam's English School Textbooks Thi Duyen Phuong, Raf Vanderstraeten, 2024-03-15 This book analyzes the basic ideas and premises underlying the English textbooks

used at the higher secondary school level in Vietnam from the 1980s to the present from a sociological perspective The dataset upon which this book builds consists of a collection of 18 textbooks which belong to five sets of locally developed English textbooks for grade 10 to grade 12 students These series were used in all public schools from the mid 1980s to the present During this period schooling expanded rapidly in Vietnam while English also gained increasing prominence within the school system This book examines the curricular content of these textbooks and presents a long term analysis of the hidden curricular content in light of Vietnam's recent history and its government's concerns about national identity The **Legacy of The X-Files** James Fenwick, Diane A. Rodgers, 2023-12-14 The Legacy of The X Files examines the content and production of the show its reception its use of legend and folklore its contemporary resonance in politics and society of the 21st century and its impact and legacy on film television the Internet and beyond Having converged with the early widespread use of the Internet The X Files became a cultural touchstone of the 1990s transforming from a cult TV show into a pop cultural phenomenon by the end of the decade To celebrate the 30th anniversary of The X Files this collection examines the content and production of the show its reception its use of legend and folklore its contemporary resonance in politics and society of the 21st century and its impact and legacy on film television the Internet and beyond The series themes of government mistrust conspiracy folklore UFOlogy and faith are dissected and applied to how the show spirituality resonated with post Cold War Western society Contributors to this collection discuss the wide ranging impact of the television show in popular culture from Mulder and Scully shippers to the show s slogan entering the contemporary lexicon The Legacy of The X Files serves as an all encompassing multi disciplinary contemporary account of The X Files reflecting upon critical historical political and social contexts and featuring an in depth and comprehensive introduction making it a vital work for researchers and students alike

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